



## TEACHING ENGLISH TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS USING GAME TECHNOLOGY

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### ANNOTATION

This article discusses the current issue of teaching English to children with special needs and how to implement this process using game technologies. The use of game technologies can be very effective in teaching English to children with special needs. Games provide children with an interesting and interactive way of learning, which increases their motivation and helps to consolidate their knowledge.

**Keywords:** Inclusive education, children with special needs, game technology, game programs, communication, psychological approach.

### INTRODUCTION

From the first days of our country's independence, special attention has been paid to raising a capable, physically and spiritually mature generation, brought up in the spirit of national and universal values, contributing to the development of society. During the years of independence, a solid foundation was created for the legal protection of the social steps of nations and peoples, the population. In our country, the issues of comprehensive care for children, protection of motherhood and childhood are considered at the level of state policy.

Children with special needs are children who have different physical, mental or psychological needs. They may need special education or support because they face different challenges in their development. These children require different approaches to education, social integration and daily activities, depending on their needs.

### MAIN PART

Violation of certain conditions necessary for the development of a child, both in the womb and after birth, can lead to various anomalies, that is, physical or mental defects, shortcomings. Work is carried out on various categories of anomalous children in need of separate assistance: They are:

- 1) children with hearing impairments (deaf, hard of hearing children, children who became deaf late);
- 2) visually impaired (blind, visually impaired children);
- 3) oligophrenic (idiot, imbecile, idiot children);

- 4) children with severe speech defects;
- 5) children with defects in the musculoskeletal system;
- 6) children with delayed mental development.
- 7) blind-deaf-mute children with complex defects.

Children with special needs require different types of support depending on their needs and abilities. Their education and development require an individual approach, special methods and technologies. Gaming technologies are an effective tool for these children, playing an important role in facilitating and making their learning process more interesting.

Teaching English to children with special needs using game technologies is a topic that has been studied and developed by many scholars in the field of education. There are several scientific studies on the effectiveness of this approach. Below, I will present the views of scholars on the use of game technologies in teaching English to children with special needs:

Famous scientists such as Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky have deeply analyzed the relationship between play and learning. Piaget described the development of children as "active players", which indicates that they interact with their environment and acquire new knowledge. Vygotsky, on the other hand, promoted social interaction and environment-based learning in children's development, which is essential for incorporating play into the language learning process.

The result is that learning through play can help children with special needs, in a way that is adapted to their psychological and cognitive needs, learn language. Play gives children the opportunity to learn freely, through experience and mistakes, which accelerates the process of language learning.

Howard Gardner, in his "Theory of Multiple Intelligences", noted that children have different intellectual abilities. For example, some children develop well in music, while others develop well in visual or mathematical areas. Gaming technologies, on the other hand, provide an individual approach to children, incorporating these different abilities.

Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia pedagogical methodology, considers games to be a powerful tool for supporting a child's emotional and cognitive development. According to this theory, children develop their language through play, introducing them to new information and experiences.

With the help of games, children with special needs develop their different intellectual and emotional abilities. Games create an interesting and intimate environment for children to acquire new words, phrases and structures in learning language.

Richard C. Atkinson and John Sweller's Cognitive Load Theory has highlighted the effectiveness of using images and games in language learning. According to their research, games reduce children's cognitive load and encourage them to be more involved in learning new knowledge. Interactive gaming technologies, such as language learning video games, virtual classrooms, or mobile apps, can effectively support the learning of English by children with special needs. With these technologies, children acquire language by hearing, seeing, and practicing at the same time.

Marilyn J. Chalkey and David J. Hargreaves have shown in their research how games help with social integration and communication. They emphasize that games

are not limited to cognitive learning, but also help children interact with other children. This is important for children with special needs, who are often isolated from society. Games are an important tool for children to establish relationships, learn a new language, and develop social skills. This increases their active participation in learning English.

Teaching English to children with special needs is of great importance. English is the most widely spoken language in the world and is the most important language for international communication. Teaching English to children with special needs not only improves their academic success, but also their social, emotional, and cognitive development. Here are some key points to consider:

- Children with special needs often experience difficulties in social integration. English helps them communicate with their peers, make new friends, and connect with society.

- Knowing English opens up wider opportunities for them, such as being active on social networks, developing their reading and writing skills, and even interacting more with other children when playing games.

- Learning English increases the educational success of children with special needs. English is the main language of many scientific resources, textbooks, and materials. Knowing English helps children understand the scientific world, global knowledge and new ideas.

- Learning this language not only develops language skills, but also develops skills such as logical thinking, speech development and problem solving.

- Learning English helps children acquire new knowledge and develop intellectually. This process increases children's cognitive abilities through listening, speaking, reading and writing.

- Activities such as games, stories, interactive exercises during the learning process are interesting and motivating for children, helping them to be emotionally involved in language acquisition.

- Learning English increases the self-confidence of children with special needs. As they learn the language and learn new words and expressions, they feel more free and capable.

- It is an important part of children's finding their identity, connecting with the world and believing in themselves. This process gives them the opportunity to feel successful and change.

- English creates great opportunities for children with special needs, not only now, but also in the future. They will have the opportunity to work, study or enter social systems internationally by knowing English.

- For example, knowing English will provide them with opportunities to work in global organizations or study abroad. This will open up even wider opportunities for children in the future.

- English, on the one hand, allows them to understand and appreciate many cultures and peoples of the world. These children will learn about different cultural changes, ideas and worldviews.

- By learning English, children will get to know global cultures and interact with other countries and peoples. This will expand their social and cultural worldview.

· Teaching English is carried out using teaching materials and methods adapted for children with special needs. For example, there are different technologies and materials for visual, kinesthetic, or auditory learning.

· The process of teaching English to these children is flexible and adaptable, depending on their needs, and helps them effectively.

Teaching English through game technology not only helps develop language skills, but also contributes significantly to the social, emotional and cognitive development of children. Below are the main benefits and methods of teaching English to children with special needs through game technology.

With the help of game technology, children are actively involved in the language learning process. Interactive games and applications are used, for example, to teach vocabulary, reinforce grammar or improve pronunciation. Such games are interesting and motivating for children, which makes the learning process more interesting and effective.

Gaming technologies also support children's emotional development. Games motivate children and they are not afraid to make mistakes in the learning process. This strengthens self-awareness and allows children to express themselves freely.

Games offer children a new and interesting way to learn English. This method attracts them to learning, because through games they want to achieve more, and at the same time, this process becomes an effective form of teaching through play.

### **Matching Game**

Matching games provide children with the opportunity to learn new words and use them correctly in context.

Game content: There are several pictures and words on the game screen. Children must match each word with the corresponding picture. For example, the word "apple" and a picture of an apple.

Example: A game on the theme of "Animals", children combine words such as "dog", "cat", "lion" with the corresponding pictures of animals.

Benefits: This game makes it easier to learn words and create images related to them.

### **Storytelling**

Storytelling games help children improve their English comprehension and encourage them to be more active in language communication.

Game content: Children tell familiar stories or fairy tales in English. During the game, children learn new words and phrases, they try to fully understand the story.

Example: Children read together famous fairy tales in English, such as "The Three Little Pigs" or "Little Red Riding Hood", and then briefly tell their own version.

Benefits: Storytelling increases children's English vocabulary and teaches them to think logically and use vocabulary.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is worth saying that teaching English to children with special needs using game technologies helps to make their learning process interesting, effective and interactive. Through games, children not only learn the language, but also develop their cognitive, emotional and social skills. Games are not only fun and motivating, but also effective

teaching tools for teaching English to children with special needs. With the help of games, children achieve great success in learning new words, developing grammar and pronunciation, as well as improving concentration and social skills. These games make the learning process of children more interesting and interactive.

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